

Carrying out an early promise, the Government has sent teams of officials from the Ministries of Justice and Interior to several provincial capitals in an effort to resolve the backlog of long standing but undecided criminal cases that had left many people accused or in jail without any verdict of guilty or innocent. Hundreds of cases have been resolved, almost always with the result of freeing the accused and the government has publicized the continuing inquiry as part of its effort to promote a favorable image for the regime.

A new National Anthem has been written and was played for the first time on December 26 over Radio Afghanistan; and a new Republican flag is in the final stages of design.

After many months of negotiations a Narcotics Enforcement Agreement was signed on November 19 between the GNA and the United Nations. It calls for immediate concentration on enforcement of anti-smuggling laws and does not address the question of long-term crop substitution or other economic development efforts. This is the first concrete commitment made by any Afghan regime to seriously combat narcotics traffic and, coupled with increased seizures of opium and hashish by the authorities, represents a major step forward by the Daud regime.

III. Foreign Affairs

Al Paklota:

The Pachtunistan issue continued to be a distraction of the Dard regime; but Paktistani Prime Minister Durrani's tough actions

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIALA-06
Kabul
Page 3

in the frontier; i.e., military reinforcement, good building, extensive personal appearances and inflammatory rhetoric, and continued military action in Baluchistan have obviously convinced the Afghans that Bhutto will not accept any Afghan activities south and east of the Durand Line. The GOA has lessened its official propaganda output, although the "Pakistani Hour" on Kabul Radio continued unabated. The assassination of Pushtunkhwa Party President Abdul Samad Khan Achikzai in Quetta on December 2 passed without touching off any significant reaction, other than the standard press barrage on the part of the Afghans. For a while the issue of the annual migration of large groups of Nomads to Pakistan seemed to be capable of generating a crisis, but those Nomads who wanted to cross the border apparently have done so. In retrospect, it is evident that some Afghan officials at least magnified, if not totally misrepresented, the seriousness of the issue.

A further example of the hostile and suspicious manner in which the two countries continue to view each other's actions are the ill feelings and anger engendered from the aborted visit of Prime Minister Bhutto's cousin Munir Ali Bhutto to deliver an invitation to the Islamic Summit Conference scheduled for February in Lahore. Both parties can be faulted for certain of their actions in the handling of this movement, and it serves to reinforce the belief that with neither government trusting the other to begin with, the total absence of reliable communications between the two can often lead to distorted reports and exaggerated crises.

B) India:

As a counter to Pakistan and in an attempt to broaden its options, the Dawud regime is attempting to strengthen relations with India. An earlier visit of Dawud's brother Mohammad Naim to India was resumed October 29-November 2 by Indian Minister of External Affairs Charan Singh, followed by an Indian Planning Team on November 5. All three events received extensive publicity, and India has reportedly agreed to increase its economic and technical assistance sharply. The political, cultural and economic ties between the two are also to be strengthened. According to one Indian Embassy official, the number of advisers sent there throughout several administrations is to increase from about 50 up to approximately 150 within 6 months. President Dawud also accepted an invitation to make a state visit to India but no date was set. It is to be hoped that India will continue to demand moderation on the Pashtunistan issue.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

P740006-2459

CONFIDENTIAL

A-01
Kabul
Page 4

C) North & South Korea:

In a brief flurry of activity at the end of December, the GDA recognized both the Democratic Republic of Korea (December 26) and the Republic of Korea (December 31). ROK Ambassadors to India LEO and DEM Deputy Foreign Minister Gura Sol were in Kabul for the respective announcements and presumably both countries will soon appoint Ambassadors (non-resident) to Afghanistan. We understand that the Afghan-North Korean negotiations originally begun in Moscow and were transferred to Kabul when agreement was imminent.

D) Soviet Union:

Good relations with the USSR continued to receive prominent media attention, and the 56th anniversary of the October Revolution (November 7) was marked by high-level Afghan attendance (Sharg and Naim) at the Soviet Embassy reception and by the opening of a week-long Soviet film festival, November 10-17, at the Kabul Mandari. While the rumored visit of Soviet Communist Party Chief Brezhnev failed to materialize, friendly messages were exchanged between Doud and the Russian leader on the latter's overflights to and from India.

E) China:

Relations between the Afghans and the PRC have been noticeably cooler since July 17, reflecting Chinese suspicion of increased Soviet influence and perhaps a loosening of Afghan interest in the Chinese as a counter to the USSR. The proposed direct air service between Kabul and Peking originally scheduled to begin last summer by Ariana has been indefinitely postponed according to the Chinese Ambassador due to "technical problems". The Chinese have indicated that they will be content to sit back and let the Afghans make any new initiatives on this matter. On November 21 an agreement calling for the construction of a 250-bed hospital in Kandahar to be financed by a Chinese grant was signed.

III. China and Taiwan

A. On November 19 the GDA announced that agreements had been reached for GDR Ambassador Fiedemann Thun, who presented his credentials in Kabul on December 9. Thun is presently Ambassador to Iran, and diplomatic relations between the GDA and GDR which were established in January of 1973 will be at the non-resident Ambassador level. The GDA has not as yet accredited any representative to the GDR.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

P740005-2480

CONFIDENTIAL

A-64
Kabul
Page 5

B. Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister Jovan Patrik visited Kabul in late December for talks that centered around the Middle East negotiations. The visit was characterized to us as a continuation of talks held with Mr. Patrik in New York in late October by CDA Deputy Foreign Minister Wahid Abdullah concerning ways in which the non-aligned nations could influence the course of the peace talks.

C. From December 4 to 19 a Czechoslovakian Economic and Trade delegation headed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Dr. Emil Michovski, visited Kabul and signed a new barter trade protocol replacing the 1968 agreement. Afghanistan will export cotton, oil-bearing seeds, dry and fresh fruits, hides and some minerals and will receive in turn various kinds of machinery and construction equipment. In addition, a \$20 million dollar loan accord was signed calling for Czech aid for a wide variety of Afghan development projects (roads, cement plant, trolley system for Kabul, coal mine, power plants, etc.) Possibility studies are required before any actual financing is advanced; thus, expenditure of funds may be slow. This is the first time that direct financial assistance has been offered (and accepted) by Czechoslovakia.

D. Sultan Mahmud Ghani, President of the Afghan Air Authority and first cousin of the ex-king, has resumed his former position of authority and in November attended an ICAO conference in New Zealand. Ghani is considered to be an intelligent and pro-western individual who had had the personal confidence of the King, and he appears to have re-established that relationship with President Daoud.

EL-67

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED